

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method, comprising:  
 2 receiving an electronic mail message;  
 3 displaying information about the electronic mail  
 4 message in a way that allows at least one of deleting the  
 5 message without indicating whether it is spam or not,  
 6 deleting the message while indicating that it is spam, or  
 7 deleting the message while indicating that it is not spam.

1 2. A method as in claim 1 further comprising storing  
 2 a database of spam likelihood, and wherein said deleting  
 3 while indicating updates information in the database.

1 3. A method as in claim 1 wherein said deleting  
 2 while indicating updates rules in a rules database.

1 4. A method as in claim 3 wherein said rules include  
 2 information about fields from said electronic mail message.

1           5.    A method as in claim 3 wherein said fields  
2 include at least a sender of the e-mail message, text of  
3 the e-mail message, and a subject of the e-mail message.

1           6.    A method as in claim 5 wherein said fields also  
2 include a domain of a sender of the e-mail message.

1           7.    A method as in claim 3, wherein said fields  
2 include links within the e-mail message.

1           8.    A method of determining whether an e-mail  
2 represents unwanted information, comprising:  
3           forming rules indicative of contents of the e-mail,  
4 said rules including at least information about a sender of  
5 the e-mail message and information about at least one  
6 other field within the e-mail message other than said  
7 sender or a recipient of the e-mail message.

1           9.    A method as in claim 8 wherein said at least one  
2 other field comprises information in text of the e-mail  
3 message.

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1 10. A method to as in claim 8, wherein said at least  
2 one other field comprises information within a subject of  
3 the e-mail message.

1 11. A method as in claim 8 wherein said at least one  
2 other field comprises information about links of said e-  
3 mail message.

1 12. A method as in claim 8, further comprising  
2 comparing an incoming message to said rules and determining  
3 a likelihood that the incoming message is unwanted based on  
4 said comparing.

1 13. A method as in claim 12 wherein said comparing  
2 comprises comparing each of a plurality of fields with  
3 rules indicative of said fields and determining a  
4 likelihood that the message is unwanted based on said  
5 comparing.

1 14. An e-mail program, comprising:  
2 a display portion which is displays a plurality of e-  
3 mails;

4 a plurality of controls including at least a first  
5 control which selects deleting an e-mail while indicating

6 that said e-mail is spam, and a second control which  
7 selects deleting an e-mail while indicating that said e-  
8 mail is not spam.

1        15. A program as in claim 14, further comprising  
2        displaying a likelihood of spam coefficient which  
3        indicates, on a weighted scale, a likelihood that the  
4        associated message represents spam.

1        16. A program as in claim 14, further comprising  
2        displaying a control which allows deleting an e-mail  
3        without indicating or not indicating whether said e-mail  
4        represents spam.

1        17. A method, comprising:

2        obtaining a message;

3        monitoring a user's actions with respect to said

4        message, and automatically forming rules indicating the

5        desirability of said message; and

6        using said rules to assess desirability of other

7        messages.

1 18. A method as in claim 17, wherein said messages  
2 are electronic mail messages.

1 19. A method as in claim 17 wherein said user's  
2 actions include a specific way that the user deletes said  
3 message.

1 20. A method as in claim 17 wherein said desirability  
2 comprises whether said message is a spam e-mail message.

1 21. A method, comprising:  
2 determining a plurality of characteristics of an  
3 unwanted message;  
4 forming a list with said plurality of characteristics;  
5 forming a score of an incoming message by comparing  
6 said incoming message with said list and determining  
7 commonalities between said incoming message and said list;  
8 defining said message as likely being unwanted if said  
9 score is within a predetermined range; and  
10 taking an action to restrict said message based on  
11 said defining.

1 22. A method as in claim 21, further comprising  
2 assessing a common-ness of a domain a sender of a message,  
3 and using said common-ness of said domain.

*add a 17*